

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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Z R 282225Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS FLASH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6832
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
USIA WASHDC
WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2467

FOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF/PHIL WISE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), BR, US
SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INTEREST IN MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER

1. AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARY RESIDENT IN BRASILIA,
REV. EMMETT YOUNG, WHO WORKS WITH THE INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
MOVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP (MCL) IN BRASILIA HAS
RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING FOUR REPEAT FOUR MCL MEMBERS
AS PROVIDING MOST POLITICAL/RELIGIOUS BALANCE FOR A MCL
MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT:

--GUIDO MONDIM, PRESIDENT, TRIBUNAL DE CONTAS DA UNIAO.
AS PRESIDENT, MONDIM IS A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL PRESIDENTIAL
APPOINTEE AND PRESIDENT OF THE HIGHEST APPELLATE COURT
WITHIN BRAZIL'S GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE (PART OF THE
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH). MONDIM, AGED 68, IS A CATHOLIC AND
A FORMER ARENA SENATOR FROM RIO GRANDE DO SUL WHO
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DID NOT RUN IN THE LAST ELECTION AND WAS APPOINTED
BY THE PRESIDENT TO HIS PRESENT POSITION. HE IS
ALSO A PAINTER AND JOURNALIST WHO HAS PUBLISHED
SEVERAL POEMS AND SATIRICAL PLAYS. HE BECAME A
FEDERAL DEPUTY IN 1954 AND A SENATOR IN 1958.

--DASO DE OLIVEIRA COIMBRA, ARENA DEPUTY FROM RIO

DE JANEIRO, AGED 52. COIMBRA IS THE LEADER OF THE MCL (A PROTESTANT) AND RECENTLY MET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON DURING THE FEBRUARY PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER BREAKFAST. COIMBRA IS A CONSERVATIVE RIGHT WING SUPPORTER OF FORMER MINISTER OF THE ARMY, GENERAL FROTA. HE IS A FORMER JOURNALIST AND PROFESSOR. HE HAS SERVED IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SINCE 1963.

--DIRCEU CARDOSO - MDG SENATOR FROM ESPIRITO SANTO. A BACK BENCHER IN THE SENATE, CARDOSO IS 65 YEARS OLD AND HAS A LONG AFFILIATION WITH THE MCL. HE IS A PROTESTANT AND HAS SERVED AS FEDERAL DEPUTY FROM 1958 THROUGH 1974, WHEN HE WAS ELECTED TO THE SENATE. CARDOSO IS A LAWYER BY PROFESSION WHO STUDIED AT THE PRESTIGIOUS ESCOLA SUPERIOR DA GUERRA AND HAS VISITED THE UNITED STATES.

--ALDO FAGUNDES - MDB DEPUTY FROM RIO GRANDE DO SUL. FAGUNDES IS A 46 YEAR OLD LAWYER WHO HAS SERVED IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SINCE 1967. HE IS A RESPECTED LIBERAL POLITICAN AND A CATHOLIC WITH A LONG AFFILIATION WITH THE MCL. HIS PRESENCE BALANCES THAT OF CONSERVATIVE FROTISTA COIMBRA.

2. THE EMBASSY SUPPORTS YOUNG'S CONTENTION THAT THE FOUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS MENTIONED PARA 1
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ABOVE PROVIDE A BETTER POLITICAL/RELIGIOUS BALANCE FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER THAN THE EARLIER SUGGESTION OF A THREE-MAN DELEGATION. ALL HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER DESPITE DIFFERENT IDEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES AND ALL ARE LONG TIME RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE MCL AND MET PRESIDENT CARTER DURING HIS 1972 VISIT TO BRASILIA. REVEREND YOUNG HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL IF IT COULD BE PRIVATE (ALTHOUGH ABBREVIATED) AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE MCL DELEGATION COULD SAY A WORD OF PRAYER TOGETHER AS IS THE CUSTOM IN MCL MEETINGS. HE ALSO INDICATED THE FOUR WOULD OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON HIS GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM.

3. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ALL FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GROUP COULD BE AVAILABLE IN BRASILIA ON THURSDAY MORNING (MARCH 30) FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST YOUR INSTRUCTION SO THAT WE MAY ARRANGE WHATEVER KIND OF MEETING THE PRESIDENT DESIRES.
JOHNSON

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